

## Fall 2020 Rules for Student Group Operations

*Updated September 2, 2020*

Guidance on student group activity is based on current University and city/state policy. It is expected that this guidance will continue to shift as we receive updated information about the impact of Covid-19 in our community. Like all other information from the University at this time, we ask students to keep in mind that this is fluid. The intent is to provide a clear set of consistent guidelines that will aid student groups in making plans as the Fall 2020 semester gets underway.

As you read this guidance please remember that while individuals are not precluded from conducting personal activities, there are limits on those activities organized and/or funded by a student organization. The goal is to support Penn's public health objectives while continuing to foster a sense of community engagement.

- All student group activity (undergraduate, graduate and professional) is expected to be hosted virtually.
  - This includes performances, practices, competitions, meetings, coffee chats, interviews, auditions, etc. of any size.
  - Virtual events will provide an opportunity to be as inclusive in your planning as possible. Enrolled students will be located all over the world and even those on campus may want to be cautious about their personal interactions.
  - Virtual events eliminate the restriction of planning based on a space reservation.
- In accordance with the [Campus Compact](#), student groups may not organize or host social activities on or off-campus which may cause safety risks to themselves or the community.
  - The biggest factors in determining risk include crowd size, indoor vs. outdoor, duration of event and forceful exhalation. Refer to this [risk index](#) for more guidance.
  - The City of Philadelphia has placed restrictions on social gatherings of College and University students. Students are asked to socialize with their housemates and/or identified "pods" of peers who are committing to limiting contact to one another. This would usually be a group of 3-4 people.
  - Masks and social distancing of 6' are required indoors and outdoors.
  - At this time, the University has suspended event registration (with and without alcohol).
- Groups will not be permitted to use organizational funds to purchase communal food and/or alcohol.
  - This supports the restriction on social programs organized/hosted by groups and supports the University's public health goals by discouraging communal dining.
  - Groups must receive approval to purchase non-communal food with student group funds in advance of those purchases. The process is initiated by completed the [Food Purchase Request Form](#). Reimbursement requests will not be honored for food purchases that were not pre-approved.
- In support of the Campus Compact, [travel is restricted to essential academic work and will be approved on a limited basis](#). Prior approval is required to use student organization money to fund travel.
  - Student groups are encouraged to use funds identified for travel to support student attendance at virtual academic and professional opportunities.

- Groups may not invite or host guests on campus.

In order to support a robust virtual community, the Office of Student Affairs can provide the following tools and services to student organizations at no cost:

- Access to event specific licensing for Zoom Webinar and Blue Jeans Events (*anticipated in late August 2020*).
  - These can host up to 1000 participants at a time.
- Training on how to use these online tools to host meetings and events.
- Guidance on how to plan a successful virtual event.